

I am writing to urge you to begin at this late date to reverse your policies regarding media consolidation. It is this terrible policy that will, in the end, destroy the free press in America.

This is so clear from the latest action by Sinclair Broadcasting. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair also forced censorship of Nightline on its affiliates. These two actions are simply not in 'the public interest'.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This FCC is responsible for allowing this kind of media consolidation, and it must reverse its actions that allow the politicization of supposedly neutral 'news'.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.